

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

## 1. Name of Property

historic name: Francis and Hannah Pope House

other name/site number:

## 2. Location

street & number: 327 N. Rodney

not for publication: na  
vicinity: na

city/town: Helena

state: Montana

code: MT

county: Lewis and Clark

code: 049

zip code: 58601

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination    request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets    does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant    nationally    statewide X locally.

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Montana State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency or bureau

(    See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

In my opinion, the property    meets    does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

   entered in the National Register

   see continuation sheet

   determined eligible for the National Register

   see continuation sheet

   determined not eligible for the National Register

   see continuation sheet

   removed from the National Register

   see continuation sheet

   other (explain):

## 5. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

## Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

Noncontributing

Category of Property: Building

20 building(s)Number of contributing resources previously  
listed in the National Register: na00 sites00 structures

Name of related multiple property listing: na

00 objects20 TOTAL

## 6. Function or Use

## Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling

## Current Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

## 7. Description

## Architectural Classification:

LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne/Eastlake

## Materials:

foundation: STONE

walls: BRICK

roof: CEDAR SHINGLES

other: WOOD

## Narrative Description

The Francis and Hannah Pope House sits on a generous, northeast corner lot in the original Helena Townsite at Seventh Avenue and North Rodney Street. Mature trees flank the street, inviting passersby to recall the bustle of this historic neighborhood overlooking Last Chance Gulch. The historic commercial Rodney Street area is several blocks to the south. The neighborhood lies in the shelter of Elkhorn Mountains' foothills to the south and Mount Helena to the west. The Rodney Street neighborhood is bounded by Davis Street to the east, and Warren Street to the west and runs for three-fourths of a mile north-south from Acropolis Street to Lyndale Avenue. Older, well-seasoned homes line Rodney Street's residential sections. The residential area and the commercial area to the south between Sixth Avenue and Broadway provide a sense of the nineteenth century milieu in which Helena grew and prospered.

The historic and present address of the Francis and Hannah Pope House is 327 North Rodney Street. The home is a grand example of the fine workmanship of the late nineteenth century. Conversion to apartments has not impacted its complicated façade in the least, and conversion back to a single family home, now in progress, is not obvious in its appearance. The home is much as it was in 1887 when the Popes remodeled the original one-story home. The core of the residence, constructed before 1872, was one of the first in the neighborhood and reflected the direction of the town's eventual growth and the optimism early residents had in its future.

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Exterior

The Francis and Hannah Pope House has a multi-gabled steeply pitched roof with multiple dormers of varied sizes and shapes typical of the Queen Anne style of the Late Victorian period. There are also Eastlake details. The house rests upon a rubblestone foundation and the windows have granite sills. The home is of painted brick and has a cedar shake roof with slight overhanging eaves. A belt course separates the first and second stories. The cornice is a simple, wide band.

The property is defined by granite curbing that partially spans the front and surrounds the south corner. On the south side, a driveway interrupts the curbing which then continues to the east property line. Granite posts punctuate the curbing. Wrought iron fencing set into the curbing fills the spaces between the posts. At the driveway, black chain link security fencing replaces the decorative wrought iron. Tall wooden fencing spans the north side of the yard.

The west, front elevation features a one-story open wooden porch spanning the front. Wooden steps lead to the original oak double doors at the offset entry. The doors have large square windows in the upper halves. A large fixed window with a divided transom flanks the south side of the entry. Another, small fixed window with a rounded arch flanks the door's north side. A pedimented, hipped roof shelters the porch. The pediment has elaborately carved ornamentation, reminiscent of the Eastlake style. Heavy turned posts support the porch and there is a spindled baluster. Latticework to either side of the porch steps covers the crawlspace beneath the porch. Turned wooden posts and railing flank the porch stairs. There is a dominant front facing gable and projecting wall on the south side of the façade. At the second story, there is a pair of double hung windows on the projecting wall and decorative brickwork at mid-story level breaks the wall surface. The recessed wall surface on the north has one double hung window. Three gables mark the half story. The dominant gable on the south has decorative shingles and a tripartite window with a wide surround. The second gable to the north has decorative shingles and a smaller single fixed window. Centered between the two is a third gable, taller than the others, with a round attic vent and decorative shingles.

A two-story central bay dominates the south elevation. The first floor has two double hung windows on the west half, and the half-hexagonal bay has a double hung window in each panel. An enclosed wooden porch with a hipped shake roof wraps around the southeast corner. A wooden storm door and windows span the porch. At the second story, decorative brickwork again breaks the wall surface. Window patterns mirror the first floor on the west half and the bay, but the second-story bay windows have slightly rounded hoods. A projecting porch off the bay has turned posts and a spindled baluster. A corner of the gable, embellished with Eastlake style carving, extends to make the porch roof. There is a double hung window above the porch at the east end. A dominant gable crowns the bay at the half-story. It has decorative shingle work and a **window....** There are two dormers. A brick chimney pierces the west dormer which is the more elaborate of the two. To either side of the chimney, there is a fixed casement window, whose shape follows the dormer's roofline. It has decorative shingles in the gable end. The second dormer at the east end has a tall two-light window, and a small pedimented roof.

At the rear, or east elevation, the enclosed porch projects from the wall surface. There is a double hung window and a tiny fixed casement window on the north half. At the north end, a one-story addition projects from the north wall. It has one door. At the second story, a doorway stands above the porch and there are two small double hung windows on the north half. A large gable with decorative shingles and mullioned casement window completes the half story.

At the north elevation, the one-story addition has two double hung windows. The east two-story end projects to form a square bay. On the first floor bay there is a pair of double hung windows side by side flanked by thin glass panels. A gently arched window head with a tripartite glass transom spans this assemblage. There are tall, thin double hung windows on

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each side panel of the projecting bay. The second story east end has a shed roofed dormer with two square fixed windows. The second story bay has two double hung windows side by side and tall thin double hung windows on the side panels. There is a small arched, fixed window and a double hung window on the west half. At the half story, the bay ends in a large gable with a square fixed window and heavy hood, reminiscent of the Federal style. Mullions divide the window into halves. A small pseudo- gable breaks the roofline. This has a triangular window with multi lights and mullions.

**Interior**

The home has five fireplaces, one of them retains its original features. Despite its conversion to apartments, the interior today continues to reflect the personality of its first owners. Francis Pope was careful with his money, and put it into the home where he thought it counted. A beautiful oak stairway extends up three floors, and the parlor has pocket doors and decorative woodwork. But the 1887 house had no indoor plumbing, and owners discovered behind the kitchen wainscoting that it had been strengthened by attaching it to a barn door. Further, beneath the hardwood flooring in the parlor, owners found a simple painted floor, evidence that Pope added elegance as he could afford it.

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**Carriage House**

The carriage house, now used as garage, sits at the property's east, or back, end. The building rests on a rubblestone foundation. It is a rectangular building situated east to west with a double wide opening to accommodate two vehicles. The building is of clapboard construction and has a gable roof. There is a pent roof overhang dividing the first and second stories. On the front, south elevation, a front facing gable with a second-story door interrupts the roofline. The gable has decorative shingles. The wooden door has twelve small lights. The west façade retains the original cross-timbered carriage house door. Above this door there is an exterior doorway on the second story gable end. Decorative shingles ornament the gable end. The east elevation roof terminates in a large gable with decorative shingles in the gable end. The building has one brick chimney on the northwest corner. The second story likely provided living quarters for hired help.

**Integrity**

The Francis and Hannah Pope House retains the setting, feel, and associations of the nineteenth century. The rich Eastlake details and fanciful dormers of many shapes reflect the flamboyant architecture that earned Helena its nickname, Queen City of the Rockies. The home retains nearly all of its historic integrity. Changes within the early historic period include loss of a front bay and expansion of the front porch. These changes occurred between 1890 and 1892. Addition of the back wraparound porch and conversion to four apartments occurred before 1930. The only modern changes to the exterior are the wooden fencing, security fencing in the garage area, and the addition of a wide entry on the carriage house to accommodate automobiles. The home retains its original footprint. Conversion to apartments during the historic period did not affect the exterior appearance.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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Applicable National Register Criteria: A and C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a

Significant Person(s): n/a

Cultural Affiliation: n/a

Areas of Significance: EXPLORATION AND SETTLEMENT;

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT; ARCHITECTURE

Period(s) of Significance: Ca. 1872-1930

Significant Dates: 1872, 1887, 1907, 1929

Architect/Builder: T. W. Welter

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**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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The Francis and Hannah Pope House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for its important associations with the earliest non-Indian settlement of the area and the patterns of development in Helena from the 1860s through the first half of the twentieth century. The Pope family contributed to the early business and social communities, and Francis Pope was instrumental in the success of the early territorial and state fairs. He was also county commissioner during the building of the landmark Lewis and Clark County Courthouse. The Pope Home is a flamboyant example of the Queen City's Late Victorian architecture and a good example of the work of architect T. W. Welter. For these reasons, it is eligible for listing under Criteria A and C.

**Early Helena**

Helena, Montana sprang from the discovery of placer gold in 1864 along a small creek the discoverers dubbed Last Chance Gulch. At the time of this discovery, placer gold finds had dwindled at the two previous mining centers of Bannack and Virginia City. Gold discovered at Grasshopper Creek in 1862 brought the first significant population to what would become the Territory of Montana and Bannack was the resulting boomtown. In 1863, discoveries at Alder Gulch saw most of Bannack's population remove to Virginia City, Nevada City, and the other communities that very quickly spread out along a fourteen-mile stretch of gulch. Bannack became the first territorial capital in 1864 with the creation of Montana Territory on May 26, 1864, the anniversary of the Alder Gulch strike.

Prospectors began to trickle into Last Chance at the first mention of the strike. Soon many Virginia City merchants and service providers followed, eager to cash in on the teeming new gold camp at Last Chance. The settlement grew rapidly and miners' claims covered all the areas that today are part of the state's capital city. As placer mining played out during the later 1860s, 1870s, and 1880s, developers and speculators platted and subdivided the former claims to accommodate the growing population as the town matured into a commercial, political and social center. The territorial capital moved from Virginia City to Helena in 1875.

The 1880s brought a period of expansion and building activity partly because an influx of new residents came with the advent of the Northern Pacific, but also because the territorial population saw statehood finally on the horizon. The railroad linked Helena to outside markets and assured its survival. Although statehood did come in 1889, the Queen City of the Rockies—so named in the late 1880s for its flamboyant architecture and its wealthy residents—suffered with the Silver Panic of 1893 as building activity ground to a near halt. Helena won permanent designation as Montana's capital in a vitriolic fight with Anaconda in 1894, and while building activity never again reached the fevered pitch of the 1880s, Helena settled comfortably into its role as the seat of state government retaining its "Queen City" nickname.

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**Rodney Street Neighborhood**

After the first death in the mining camp in 1865, that of Dr. L. Rodney Pococke, Helenans honored him by naming one of the major arteries Rodney Street. By the early 1870s, businessmen saw Rodney Street as an obvious commercial center and preferred residential neighborhood. Close to Courthouse Square, it was a major transportation artery and the logical area for expansion as the narrow downtown gulch grew impossibly crowded. Fire posed a real danger under these conditions along the gulch as numerous costly conflagrations between 1869 and 1874 demonstrated.

Rodney Street stretches today from Acropolis to Lyndale, three-fourths of a mile. Some of Helena's most elegant homes including the China Clarke, Mike Reinig, and the Martin Holter mansions all stood along South Rodney Street. Of these three, only the beautiful French Second Empire style Martin Holter home stands today. East of Broadway, laundries, bakeries, banks, liveries, boarding houses, hotels, and groceries grew to serve Courthouse Square at Ewing and Broadway in the early 1870s, and some of Helena's most prominent citizens chose to build along North Rodney and Ewing Streets. Attorney Wilbur F. Sanders and Territorial Governor B. F. Potts' residences were at Seventh and Ewing; Territorial Governor Preston Leslie lived for a time at Sixth and Rodney; Territorial Governor William Ashley and newspaper editor Robert Fisk were neighbors on North Rodney Street. The Francis Pope family moved into the prestigious Rodney Street neighborhood in 1872.

When the Northern Pacific Railroad arrived in 1883, it linked remote Montana Territory and the capital at Helena, with the "States." This great milestone ushered in a period of expansion and optimism, characterized by the construction of handsome commercial blocks, elegant homes for the socially elite, multi-family apartment buildings, boarding houses as well as affordable single-family dwellings. Many Rodney Street neighborhood property owners including Robert Fisk, Wilbur Sanders, and Francis Pope, extensively remodeled their existing dwellings into grand Victorian period homes while others like William Chessman and Morris Silverman built stylish new homes.

**Francis and Hannah Pope Family**

Francis Pope was a native of London, Canada, born March 1, 1843. He left school at sixteen and worked in drug stores in Simcoe and Toronto for the next five years, learning the trade of pharmacist. In 1865, Pope booked passage on the steamer *Golden Rule* bound for California. Traveling via the Isthmus of Panama, the ship ran onto a coral reef in the Caribbean Sea, and the survivors were stranded for two weeks, living off the coral reef. A United States frigate came upon the shipwreck, rescued them, and transported them to Panama. Pope then traveled on to San Francisco and soon after came to Helena.<sup>1</sup>

Arriving in the booming gold camp in 1866, Pope went into the livery business with Elizur Beach opening the California Feed Corral and Livery on Main Street. After two years, Pope put his training to use in the pharmacy business with James Weir at 64 Main Street. The firm of Weir and Pope was one of three drug companies in Helena at the time.

Weir and Pope advertised in the 1868 city directory that they kept a constant stock of drugs, chemicals, patent medicines, oils, paints, varnishes and turpentine, toilet articles and perfumes. They carried shoulder braces and trusses, mill and refiner's chemicals, and filled physicians prescriptions. They also imported Swedish leeches (bleeding was a standard treatment favored by most physicians of the time).<sup>2</sup> Weir and Pope continued their partnership through the 1870s and at least until 1884, but by 1886, the partnership had dissolved and Pope was in business with John E. O'Connor. Their

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<sup>1</sup> Leeson, History of Montana, p. 1243.

<sup>2</sup> Helena City Directory 1868, p. 66, housed at MHS Research Center, Helena, MT.

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business soon moved to the Bailey Block at 42 N. Main. In 1892, Pope and O'Connor advertised assay material of all kinds including cement, stucco, plaster, Borax, sulphur and brimstone. In addition to drugs, medicines, and perfumes, Pope and O'Connor also carried single and double trusses and electric belts.<sup>3</sup>

In 1868, Francis Pope married Hannah Copp of Clinton, Canada. His marriage and his business prospered as his family grew. The Popes had seven children, Francis, Harriet, Edward, William, Mary, Alice, and Katherine.

In 1872, Francis Pope purchased the property and buildings at 327 North Rodney from Richard and Emily Lockey for \$800. Lockey was an early real estate developer and longtime Helena resident who owned a number of lots in the original townsite. Birdseye maps of Helena show a substantial home and outbuildings on the lots in 1875 and in 1883.<sup>4</sup>

Francis Pope did much to enrich the community and long served its interests. In 1886 he served as county commissioner. The Lewis and Clark County courthouse was constructed during his tenure as a commissioner. He and the other commissioners left an important legacy. This landmark building was planned as the territorial capitol and served as such until statehood in 1889. It is Montana's only standing territorial capitol building. It then served as the State Capitol until 1902. A terra cotta tablet at the north entry to the courthouse preserves the names of these commissioners including Francis Pope.

The Pope family was active in community affairs and events. According to her obituary, Hannah Pope was a beloved member of the community. She was a member of the Art Club which in 1883 exhibited "ancient articles" at Harmonia Hall gathered from among prominent Helena women. Mrs. Pope's antiques included a bridal dress, handbag, and china more than 100 years old. The Pope family participated in and promoted the annual territorial fairs. In 1872, Francis and Hannah and "Miss Pope" (presumably Miss Mary Pope, Francis' sister) served on several planning committees.<sup>5</sup>

Francis Pope long served on the board of directors and as secretary of the Montana Agricultural, Mineral and Mechanical Association which organized and produced the territorial fairs from the late 1860s until statehood. The men involved in this event had many hurdles and did a great service to the community in bringing participants from a wide area. Horseracing attracted entries from as far away as California and Colorado. (see the National Register nomination for the Montana State Fairgrounds Racetrack) After statehood, Pope served as secretary of the State Fair in 1890 and 1891.<sup>6</sup>

In addition to his contributions as county commissioner and involvement in the fairs, Francis Pope did much to promote cultural events. He was the booking agent for theatrical troupes that came to Helena to play at the Ming Opera House and Pope and O'Connor's store was the ticket outlet. Further, in 1893, the railroad ticket agency was also housed at Pope and O'Connor's.<sup>7</sup>

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3 Polk City Directory for Helena, 1892, p. 14.

4 Deed Book N, p.101, Clerk and Recorder's Office, Lewis and Clark County, Helena, MT; Birdseye Map of Helena, MT, 1875, Montana Historical Society Research Center Map Collection; 1883 Birdseye Map of Helena, Montana, Beck and Paul, Library of Congress, American Memory Map Collection accessed at [http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/map\\_item.pl?data+home/www/data/gmd/gmd425/g425/g4...](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/map_item.pl?data+home/www/data/gmd/gmd425/g425/g4...) accessed 3/7/2005).

5 Helena Independent, January 5, 1910; Daily Independent, February 15, 1883; Helena Daily Herald, January 13, 1872.

6 "Directors of the Montana Fair Association," 1871. #942-582, Photographic archives MHS Research Center; Leeson, p. 1243; Helena Daily Independent, August 30, 1890; Board of Directors and Secretary of the Montana State Fair in 1891, Helena Daily Independent, August 24, 1891.

7 Polk City directories for Helena, 1890-1894.

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A longtime member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Francis Pope was a man of sterling integrity and never hesitated to help a friend. This he demonstrated in an unusual manner in 1883. William Nowlan was out of town when he passed away unexpectedly. It being a Sunday evening, Pope took the remains to his home. As an apothecary, he had the chemicals at his disposal, and he personally embalmed the body and placed Nowlan in a metallic casket as required for shipping. After Nowlan's funeral the next day at St. Peter's, Pope arranged for transfer of the remains and placed the casket on the train bound for the dead man's sister in California.<sup>8</sup>

Although Pope was a man of character, he may have had some complaints from his neighbors. Elizabeth Fisk wrote to her mother in 1890 that the Popes kept a very noisy "dog ranch" that disturbed the peace of the neighborhood. Mrs. Fisk wrote, "Mr. Pope has give[n] of those immense dogs, 'Great Danes' or Siberian boar hounds confined in his yard and woodshed. They bark and howl at times till we are almost wild...."<sup>9</sup>

During the period of Francis Pope's tenure as county commissioner, he met T. W. Welter, the Helena-based architect for the St. Paul firm of Hodgson and Stem, architects of the Lewis and Clark County courthouse. Following the tenor of the times with building activity everywhere in Helena, including in the immediate neighborhood, the Popes expanded and remodeled their one-story home into a gracious two-and-one-half story home to better accommodate their very large family. T. W. Welter did the work, bringing the home up to date and making it a credit to the Pope family's status. The family temporarily relocated to 401 North Rodney Street<sup>10</sup>

There is good evidence support the fact that the Pope home was remodeled and not constructed in 1886-1887. Birdseye maps of 1875 and 1883 show the same one-story dwelling and outbuildings that appear on the 1884 Sanborn map. Further, the cost of the work, \$10,000, indicates that this was not a ground up construction. Compared to the construction cost of the Shirley Ashby house Welter built the same year on Helena's west side (\$22,000), for example, it seems obvious the Pope house was a remodel with additions to the existing building. Current property owners note that the basement in particular was constructed in several stages, the oldest part appears to predate the existing structure.<sup>11</sup>

In 1887, Francis Pope made an extraordinary gesture. He deeded the house to Hannah, "for the love and affection he bears for her ...for the purpose of making her a gift." The document makes it clear that Pope wanted no strings attached: "relinquishing for himself and his heirs all right or claim to the same, or any part thereof, as community property so that the same may be held by her as separate, and not in any respect as community property." The document was filed December 31, 1887.<sup>12</sup>

As the home neared completion, the Pope family fell on hard times. In 1888, nineteen-year-old Francis, Jr., died of a rheumatic heart. The family began to take in boarders, a common practice in even the wealthiest Helena households throughout the later nineteenth century. One boarder was the beloved physician Dr. Maria Dean who specialized in the

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8 Helena Daily Independent, April 3, 1883.

9 Elizabeth Chester Fisk to her mother, Mrs. Isaac Chester, February 2, 1890. Ms Collection 31, Box 8, Folder 6, Fisk Family Papers, MHS Research Center archives.

10 Polk City Directory for Helena, 1888.

11 The Helena Board of Trade, 1886-1887, lists all the properties Welter constructed during the year including the Ashby and Pope homes; interview with Amy Sullivan, November 13, 2006.

12 A copy of this deed is in the possession of the homeowners, Amy and Mike Sullivan.

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diseases of women and children. Perhaps her residency in house had some connection to young Francis' illness. Dr. Dean boarded with the Pope family until after 1900.<sup>13</sup>

Francis Pope dissolved his partnership with John O'Connor in 1894, probably because of ill health, perhaps aggravated by the financial panic of 1893. He did not work again until 1898 when he took a job as clerk with Parchen Drugs. In 1899, fifteen-year-old Edward died of spinal meningitis. At the turn of the twentieth century, the five surviving Pope children remained at home. Mary—who previously worked at the Helena Public Library—married Dr. Angus Fleming of Missoula in 1899 and had a child by 1900. Harriet (Hattie) who taught at Emerson School, married Edward Brandegee in 1900 and the newlyweds moved into the Pope house. Alice taught at Central School, and William clerked at Holter's hardware store. Thirteen-year-old Katherine, the youngest of the Pope children, was still in public school.

In 1907, Francis Pope died of heart disease and Hannah died in 1910. At the death of Hannah, Edward Brandegee became head of the large household and acquired title to the property at 327 N. Rodney. The household included Edward, Harriet, and their two children; Mary Fleming, widowed in 1908, and her two children; Alice Pope; four roomers; and a domestic servant. Katherine Pope married U.S. Senator R. J. Bulkley in 1909, moved to Cleveland, Ohio, and died of a heart attack in 1932. William married and moved to Portland in 1916. He died in 1940. Harriet Brandegee died of pneumonia in 1922. Edward later moved to California and died in 1943. Mary Fleming died in California several months after Edward.<sup>14</sup>

Alice was the last of the Pope children to marry. She continued to live at the family residence, teaching school until her marriage to Wesley M. Biggs in 1918. Biggs, prominent in real estate and a county commissioner like Alice's father, was previously married. His first wife, Norma, passed away in 1915. Alice and her new husband made their home at the Rodney Street residence although Norma and Wesley Biggs' home was also in the neighborhood at Sixth and Ewing. Biggs died suddenly in 1923.<sup>15</sup> As with all the Pope family deaths, the wake was held at the Rodney Street home. Presumably with the death of Harriet, the house at 327 N. Rodney went to Alice Pope Biggs.

In 1929, the house passed out of the Pope family. Charles Valentine purchased it for \$10,000, ironically the same amount it cost Francis Pope to remodel in 1886. Coincidentally, Charles Valentine was a pharmacist like Francis Pope. The Valentines converted the home, already conveniently divided, into four apartments. For the first time since the 1870s, no Pope family members lived in the home.

Current owners are now converting the apartment house back to a single family dwelling. The conversion process added walls, but no walls were removed.<sup>16</sup>

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13 Polk City Directory arranged by address for 1890, MHS Research Center, Helena, MT; Eleventh Census of the United States, Lewis and Clark County, Montana, 7<sup>th</sup> Precinct, Enumeration District 17, sheet 11B.

14 Twelfth Census of the United States, Lewis and Clark County, Montana, 1910, Precinct 7, Enumeration District 160, Sheet 7A; Helena Daily Independent, December 24, 1940; Helena Daily Independent, July 16, 1932; Forestvale Cemetery Records; Helena Independent, March 9, 1943 and September 9, 1943.

15 Helena Daily Independent, October 30, 1923.

16 Amy Sullivan, communication with author, November 1, 2004.

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**T. W. Welter**

T. W. Welter was in partnership with Fisk J. Shaffer in the mid-1880s. He was a prolific builder, designing in 1886-1887 at least twenty-six buildings and homes in Helena. He formed a partnership with Hodgson and Stem, the St. Paul architects who designed the Lewis and Clark County Courthouse during this same time period. Welter supervised the building of this important landmark. Other buildings that still stand designed by Welter include the Mollie Burns House at 212 State Street, the Chessman Home (known as the Original Governor's Mansion) at Sixth and Ewing; the Chessman Apartments at Sixth and Ewing; the Shirley C. Ashby House at 642 Dearborn; and the William Chumasero Home at 520 North Benton Avenue.<sup>17</sup>

Welter preferred the Queen Anne style typical of the period. The homes he designed bear the characteristics of the Late Victorian period with fanciful ornamentation, turrets, gabled roofs and dormers, two-story bay windows, large porches, and asymmetrical orientation of elements. Welter advertised only once in the city directories, in 1888. He does not appear in Helena after that year.

**Architectural Significance**

T. W. Welter was a prolific architect during his relatively short career in Helena, designing some of Helena's most significant homes. Among these are the Shirley Ashby Home and the Mollie Burns (a.k.a. Belle Crafton) Home, both contributing properties in Register listed districts. The William Chessman Home, independently listed in the National Register, is significant as Montana's Original Governor's Mansion. Welter's skilled expression of the flamboyant Queen Anne style is well demonstrated in the rich Eastlake embellishments, the use of different types of dormers, bays and windows. In addition, Welter's association with Hodgson and Stem, designers of the Landmark Lewis and Clark County Courthouse, lend further importance to the Francis and Hannah Pope House.

**Summary**

Francis and Hannah Pope invested in Helena's future and contributed to the early community in a number of ways. Francis was one of Helena's first druggists, in business through the mid-1890s. He impacted the community in his long involvement with the territorial and state fairs, and as a county commissioner during the building of the Lewis and Clark County Courthouse. With the Panic of 1893, the family fell on hard times, illustrating the fate of many Helena citizens. The family continued to struggle, and family members contributed to the household which continued to grow as the children married. Throughout the early twentieth century, family members remained in residence at their parents' home.

The house the Popes built on its prominent Rodney Street corner remains to illustrate the heady time when Helena was the Queen City of the Rockies. It is a grand example of the work of architect T.W. Welter and a testament to the many businessmen who came with the gold rush and stayed to marry, raise families, and establish homes. The Pope family continued in residence from 1872 until 1929, and their residency speaks to the permanency of the gold camp turned capital city.

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<sup>17</sup> Helena Board of Trade, 1886-1887.

**Francis and Hannah Pope House**

Name of Property

**Lewis and Clark, MT**

County, State

**9. Major Bibliographic References**

See continuation sheet

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.  
☐ previously listed in the National Register  
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register  
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark  
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data:**

☒ State Historic Preservation Office  
☐ Other State agency  
☐ Federal agency  
☐ Local government  
☐ University  
☐ Other -- Specify Repository:

**10. Geographical Data****Acreage of Property:** Less than one

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing
	12	420923	5159640

**Legal Location (Township, Range & Section(s)):**

T10N R3W S30

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Lot number One (1) in Block Fifty (50), being twenty-seven and one-half (27 1/2) feet fronting on Rodney Street and one hundred fifty feet (150) deep on Seventh Avenue. Also Lot Two (2) in Block Fifty (50) being twenty seven and one-half (27 1/2) feet fronting on Rodney Street and one hundred fifty (150) feet deep; also five (5) feet of the southerly side of Lot Three (3) in Block Fifty (50) being five (5) feet fronting on Rodney Street and one hundred fifty (150) feet deep, said property being sixty (60) feet fronting Rodney Street and one hundred fifty (150) feet on the north side of Seventh Avenue in the southwest corner of Block Fifty (50) in the official plats of the Townsite of Helena, MT.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary is drawn, based on legally recorded boundary lines, to include the land surrounding the building that has been historically associated with the building and conveys the property's historic setting.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Ellen Baumler, Historian		date: 11/14/06
organization: Montana Historical Society		telephone: (406-449-3062)
street & number: 729 11 <sup>th</sup> Avenue	state: MT	zip code: 59601
city or town: Helena		

**Property Owner**

name/title: Mike and Amy Sullivan		telephone:
street & number: 327 N. Rodney Street	state: MT	zip code: 59601
city or town: Helena		

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9

Francis and Hannah Pope House  
Lewis and Clark, MT

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Birdseye Map of Helena, 1883, Montana, Beck and Paul, Library of Congress, American Memory Map Collection accessed at [http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/map\\_item.pl?data+home/www/data/gmd/gmd425/g425/g4...](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/map_item.pl?data+home/www/data/gmd/gmd425/g425/g4...) accessed 3/7/2005).

Birdseye Map of Helena, MT, 1875, Montana Historical Society Research Center Map Collection;

Board of Directors and Secretary of the Montana State Fair in 1891, *Helena Daily Independent*, August 24, 1891.  
*Daily Independent*, February 15, 1883.

Deed Book N, p.101, Clerk and Recorder's Office, Lewis and Clark County, Helena, MT

"Directors of the Montana Fair Association, 1871," #942-582, Photographic Archives MHS Research Center.

Fisk, Elizabeth Chester. "Letter to her mother, Mrs. Isaac Chester, February 2, 1890." MS Collection 31, Box 8, Folder 6, Fisk Family Papers, MHS Research Center Archives.

Forestvale Cemetery Records.

Helena City Directory 1868, p. 66, housed at MHS Research Center, Helena, MT.

*Helena Daily Herald*, January 13, 1872.

*Helena Daily Independent*, April 3, 1883.

*Helena Daily Independent*, August 30, 1890.

*Helena Daily Independent*, October 30, 1923.

*Helena Daily Independent*, July 16, 1932.

*Helena Daily Independent*, December 24, 1940.

*Helena Independent*, January 5, 1910.

*Helena Independent*, March 9, 1943 and September 9, 1943.

"Interview with Amy Sullivan." November 13, 2006.

Leeson, History of Montana, p. 1243.

Polk City Directory for Helena, 1888-1894.

Sullivan, Amy. Communication with author, November 1, 2004.

*The Helena Board of Trade*, 1886-1887.

U.S. Census Bureau. *Eleventh Census of the United States*, Lewis and Clark County, Montana, 7<sup>th</sup> Precinct, Enumeration District 17, sheet 11B.

U.S. Census Bureau. *Twelfth Census of the United States*, Lewis and Clark County, Montana, Precinct 7, Enumeration District 160, Sheet 7A.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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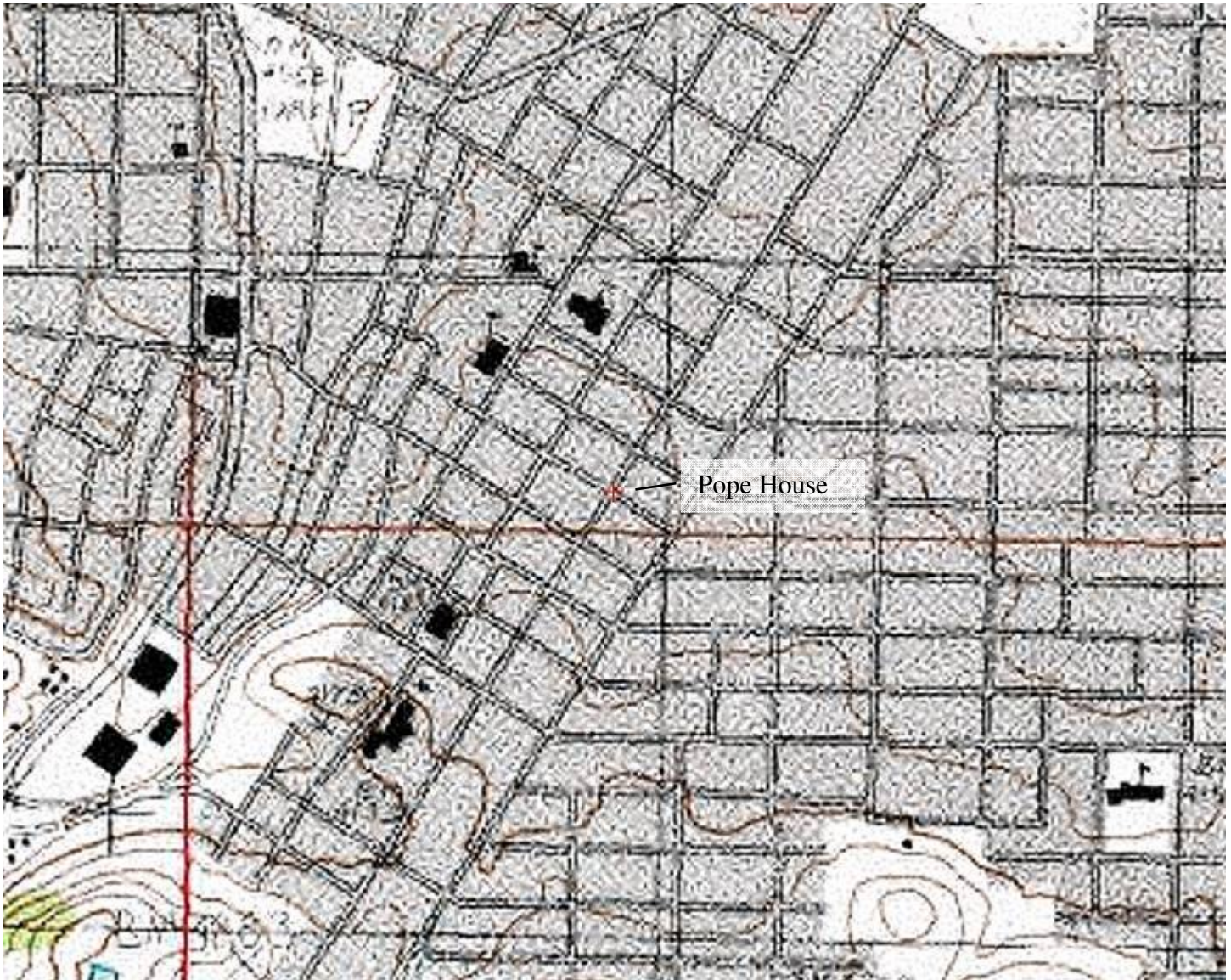
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Maps and Photographs

Francis and Hannah Pope House  
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Detail of Helena Quadrangle showing location of Pope House



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National Park Service

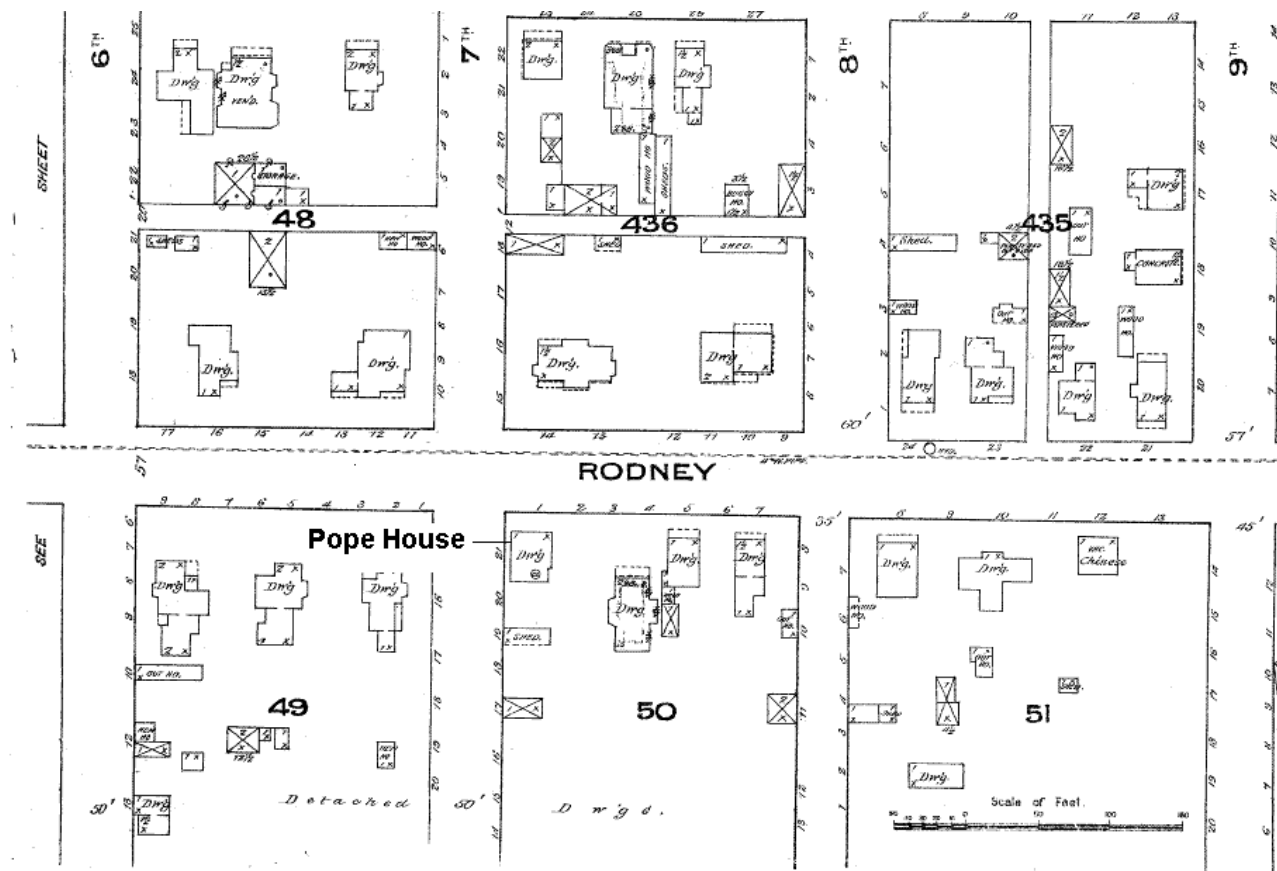
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1884 Sanborn Map detail, sheet 4.

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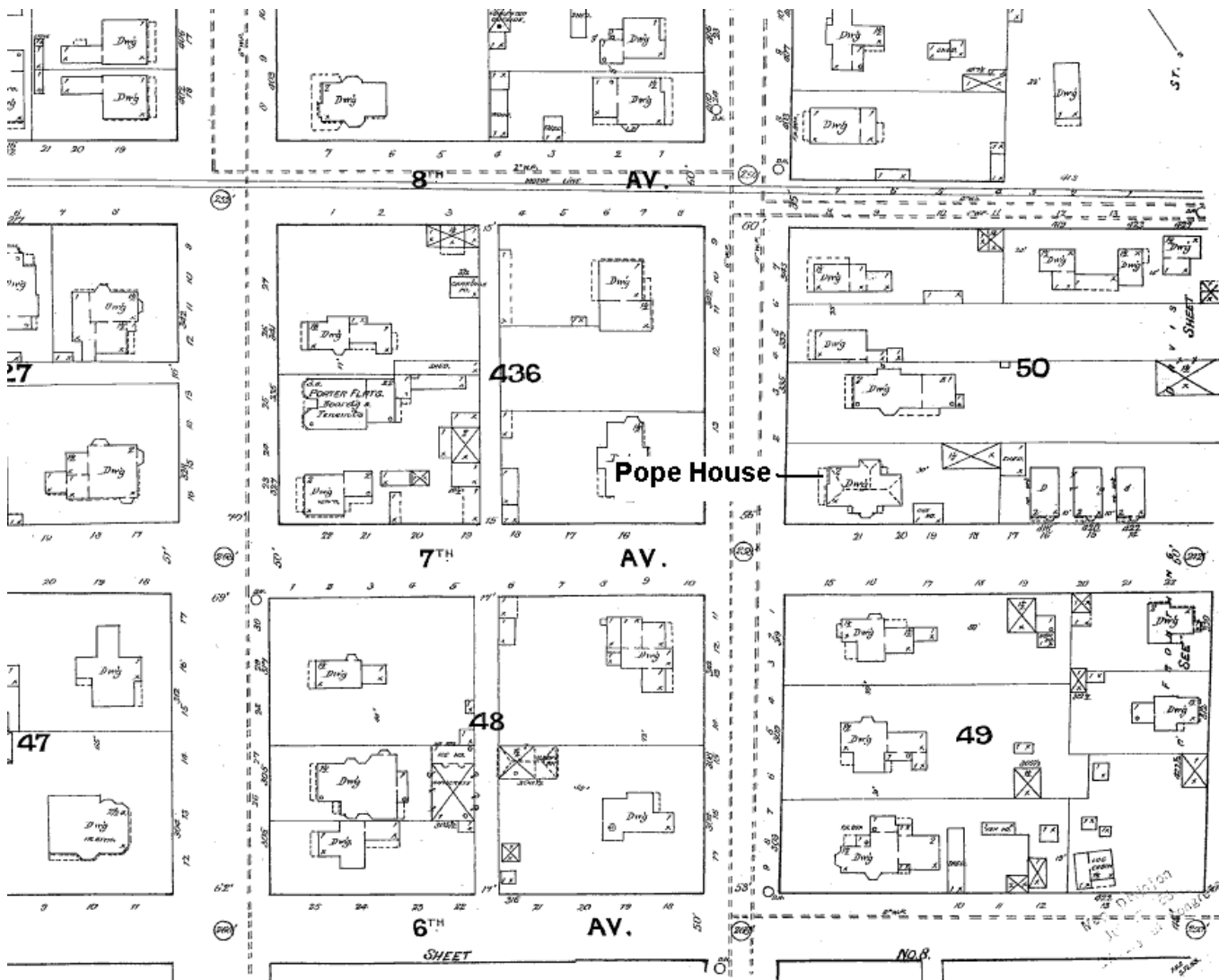
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1888 Sanborn Map detail, sheet 7.

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National Park Service

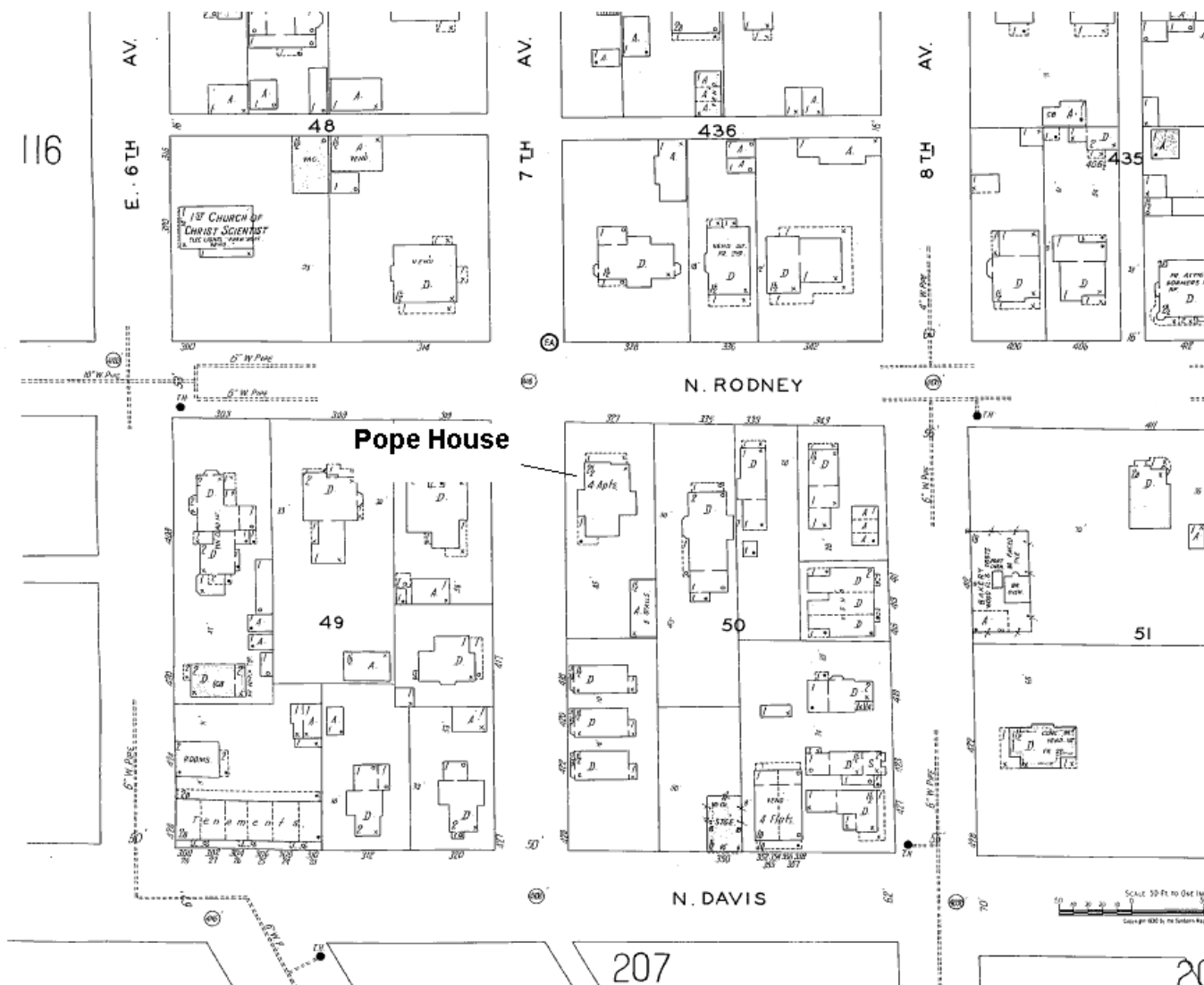
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1930 Sanborn Map detail, sheet 117.